

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting
Lovonya DeJean Middle School
3400 Macdonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805**

**November 2, 2011
Corrected November 21, 2011**

A. CLOSED SESSION

B. OPENING PROCEDURES

President Charles Ramsey called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The Board recessed into Closed Session. President Ramsey called the Public Session to order at 6:37 P.M.

B.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Ramsey led the pledge of allegiance.

B.2 Welcome and Meeting Procedures

President Ramsey offered welcome and instructions to the public regarding the meeting.

B.3 Roll Call

Board Members Present: Madeline Kronenberg, Antonio Medrano, Elaine Merriweather, Charles Ramsey, Tony Thurmond

Staff Present: Magdy Abdalla, District Engineering Officer; Rosa Cornejo, Staff Secretary; Otilia Espinoza, Interpreter; Bill Fay, Associate Superintendent Operations; Luis Freese, Executive Director Maintenance & Operations; Sheri Gamba, Associate Superintendent Business Services; Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Bruce Harter, Superintendent; Joshua Herrera, Electronics Technician; Joe Mayes, Maintenance Manager; Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

B.4 Presentation of Student Board Representative from El Cerrito High School

Claudia Campos provided a report of activities at Kennedy High School.

B.5 Report/Ratification of Closed Session

Superintendent Harter asked the Board to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding administrative appointments:

Elaine Brady: Interim Principal, Shannon Elementary School

Rose Bright: Interim Instructional Specialist, Nystrom Elementary School

Motion: Mr. Medrano moved to ratify the action taken in Closed Session regarding the approval of the administrative appointments. Ms. Kronenberg seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.6 Agenda Review and Adoption

President Ramsey requested to move agenda items D.1 and F.1 to follow item B.6.

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the agenda, with moving the agenda items D.1 and F.1. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Tony Thurmond, Student Representative Claudia Campos (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

B.7 Minutes: October 19, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of the Minutes of October 19, 2011. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Claudia Campos (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

D.1 The Ed. Fund Grant Winners for 2011

Ms. Rashidchi invited Mr. Zuhair Saadat from the Ed Fund to talk about the mini grants. Mr. Saadat said that he was pleased to announce that they were able to award 74 grants totaling over \$54,000 to schools in the District. The focus this year was 23 of the grants are going to support music. Mr. Saadat announced and congratulated the winners. Board members joined in congratulating the awardees.

F.1 Naming the Gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School in Memory of Dolly Felix

Superintendent Harter talked about the request received by the community to rename the John F Kennedy Gym in honor of Dolly Felix.

Public Comment:

Linda Felix-Lambie

Board Comment:

None

MOTION: Mr. Thurmond moved approval of Naming the Gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School in Memory of Dolly Felix. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Claudia Campos (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

C.1 Grants/Awards/Agreements

C.2 Acceptance of Donations

C.3 Approval of Fund-Raising Activities

C.4 Contracted Services

C.5 Resolution No. 71-1112: State and Federal Surplus Property Program

C.6 Certificated Board Authorization - Education Code 44285.3

C.7 Ratification and Approval of Engineering Services Contracts

C.8 Ratification and Approval of Negotiated Change Orders

C.9 Approval of Portola Middle School at Castro Elementary Site Construction Administration Fees

C.10 Resolution No. 70-1112: Recognizing Contributions of Veterans to the Country

C.11 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) appointment by the City of Hercules

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval of Consent Items C.1 – C.11. Mr. Medrano seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Claudia Campos (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

President Ramsey requested moving item G.1 to follow consent items.

MOTION: Ms. Kronenberg moved approval to move agenda item G.1 to follow consent items. Ms. Merriweather seconded. Ms. Kronenberg, Mr. Medrano, Ms. Merriweather, Mr. Thurmond and Student Representative Claudia Campos (advisory vote only), and President Ramsey voted yes with no abstentions and no absences. Motion carried 5-0-0-0.

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

G.1 Integrity Education Center Charter School

Mr. Greer introduced Mr. James Madden who gave in depth presentation of his proposed school program.

Public Comment:

Harold Clemetson

Board Comment:

Mr. Thurmond asked Mr. Madden how his program will be a drop out preventative. Mr. Madden responded.

D. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, AND REPORTS

D.1 The Ed. Fund Grant Winners for 2011

This item was moved to follow item B.7.

D.2 Standing Reports

Youth Commission: Andre Taylor gave brief updates on ideas of how schools should handle bullying complaints.

Academic Subcommittee: Ms. Rashidchi announced that the Academic Subcommittee will be hosting the first town hall academic meeting on November 8th at 6:30 at Helms Middle School.

Safety Committee: Mr. Thurmond announced that the Safety Committee's next meeting will be November 9th, 6:00 PM at El Cerrito High.

Ivy League Connection: President Ramsey gave an update on the successful event held at La Strada. Mr. Ramsey shared that they will be having dinner with a Brown University admissions officer. Ms. Kronenberg will be visiting students at Brown and Yale and having dinner with admissions officers. The Ivy League Connection has been nominated for the Golden Bell Award and may receive recognition by the State of California.

E. PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

(Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54950 et seq.)

E.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Harter provided a report of activities in the District.

E.2 WCCUSD Public Comment

None

F. ACTION ITEMS

F.1 Naming the Gymnasium at John F. Kennedy High School in Memory of Dolly Felix

This item was moved to follow item D.1

G. DISCUSSION ITEMS

This item moved to follow consent items.

G.2 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Fay introduced Mr. Hibser, lead architect of HY Architects for the Portola Middle School project. Mr. Hibser gave a presentation with an overview of the project and a status report.

Mr. Medrano asked if the green roof design is similar to one used in San Francisco. Mr. Hibser stated that they are using a design that will use the least maintenance possible. Mr. Brad Steen of Kleinfelder gave an overview of geological investigation and geological hazard assessment. He confirmed that two reports have been approved. Mr. Ramsey request to have copies provided of the approval letters. President Ramsey suggested staff and consultants work with the City of El Cerrito. Mr. Hibser stated that they have been working closely with the City.

Ken Yang, structural engineer, gave an overview of the design structure. President Ramsey asked what they are doing to the design to make it earthquake safe. Mr. Yang responded. President Ramsey asked why they are keeping the wood structure from the original Castro building as part of the new Portola Middle School. Mr. Hibser responded that it is part of the agreement with the community and result of the environmental impact report.

Mr. Medrano asked for clarification of Building A and why it isn't being rebuilt instead being structurally sound. Mr. Hibser responded. President Ramsey and Mr. Medrano both expressed concern that the building is not going to be as seismically safe as the rest of the buildings. Mr. Steen responded that the seismic codes are more stringent on existing buildings in schools when retrofitted. Ms. Merriweather wanted clarification on the different levels. Mr. Hibser clarified.

Ms. Kronenberg asked if there have been any conversations with the archiving people to save anything from Portola before it is demolished. Mr. Hibser responded that Go Portola group will be addressing it. She also asked if they have brought this presentation to the City of El Cerrito. Mr. Hibser responded.

Mr. Thurmond asked about the traffic measures. Mr. Hibser explained that they worked with a traffic consultant and city staff. He explained where the students will be dropped off by public transit as well by parents. Mr. Ramsey asked about Special Education classrooms. Mr. Hibser responded that they have provided them with specialized facilities for severely disabled students. The Special Education classes have been integrated within the regular classroom buildings.

Kevin MacQuarrie and Sisi Meng of WLC Architects gave a presentation with an overview of the temporary housing at Kennedy for the Coronado project. President Ramsey asked whether there is a need for a geotechnical work. Mr. Brad Steen of Kleinfelder responded that requirements for portables are less stringent. The District has elected to do a geotechnical investigation. Mr. Medrano asked about a covered area for students to eat lunch. Ms. Meng responded that the student will have a multipurpose room.

Mr. MacQuarrie and Sisi Meng gave an overview presentation of the Coronado project. Ms. Meng also talked about the Health Center at Coronado. Simon Makdessi, Principal of RMA Group, talked about the geologic hazard assessment and geotechnical investigation reports for Coronado. Warren Pottebaum, structural engineer from Thornton Tomasetti spoke about the structure design of Coronado. Mr. Ramsey asked whether they have received any comments back from DSA. Mr. Pottebaum said they have a back check appointment with the Division of State Architects (DSA) on December 1, 2011. President Ramsey asked about the estimated construction time. Mr. MacQuarrie responded that they are looking at about eighteen months. Mr. Medrano asked Ms. Cohen for her comments. Ms. Cohen said it has been a long process but well worth the wait.

Andrew Butt from Interactive Resources gave a presentation with an overview of the Nystrom project. President Ramsey asked if they have done any revisions. Mr. Butt responded. President Ramsey asked when the project will go out to bid. Mr. Abdalla responded. Mr. Fay stated that these three projects are almost ready for bids and will be preparing a bid schedule.

Mr. Matt Pettler from School Facility Consults gave a presentation update on the state facility funding. President Ramsey asked Mr. Pettler to speak about the state loan for Leadership Public High School (LPS). Mr. Pettler responded that they have worked out a structure with LPS. President Ramsey asked why the State won't fund at least half of the Portola project. Mr. Pettler responded that the state funding is formula driven.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

President Ramsey said that the District's construction projects are exciting. He thanked the community for their support.

Ms. Kronenberg said she continues to see the importance of being aggressive in seeking state funding.

Mr. Medrano said he thinks it's great and to continue being aggressive.

President Ramsey asked Mr. Pettler about the Hardship Program and San Bernardino Unified School District. Mr. Pettler responded.

Ms. Merriweather asked if the Jobs Bill passes whether the District will be eligible for that money. Mr. Pettler responded that they are tracking it closely.

President Ramsey thanked everyone for their presentations.

G.3 Project Status Report – Facilities Planning and Construction

Mr. Abdalla gave a construction status report on projects in the District.

Public Comment:

None

Board Comment:

Mr. Medrano asked Mr. Abdalla why the marquee is not working at Helms. Ms. Abdalla assured Mr. Medrano that they are working on it. Mr. Fay also informed Mr. Medrano that the wiring is being redone.

H. UNFINISHED REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD (continued from Item E)

I. COMMENTS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Thurmond thanked everyone who gave presentations. He also took the opportunity to thank President Ramsey for finding dollars that can support our operating cost and educating kids. Mr. Thurmond also thanked the citizens.

Ms. Merriweather congratulated the grant winners. She is also excited about the Academic Town Hall meeting.

Mr. Medrano talked about a youth meeting he attended last weekend in San Pablo Town Hall. He reminded everyone that the Ed Fund has scholarships for students.

Ms. Kronenberg thanked everyone that participated in the Parent University.

President Ramsey announced that they will be having a special meeting on December 12, 2011 to discuss academics at the high schools. They will also be meeting the second Wednesday of the month to talk about three different high schools' systems and structures. Every third Monday of the month they will rotate and meet at each high school.

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting in the name of Shelly Meron.

J. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Lovonya DeJean Middle School – November 16, 2011

K. ADJOURNMENT

President Ramsey adjourned the meeting at 9:56 P.M.

Motion vote count order: Yes-No-Abstain-Absent

BH:rc

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAM</u> Approved 12/7/11</p>
